

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14TH DISTRICT

Jacobs Press Release

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JACOBS BILL MODERNIZES 'BLUE' SUNDAY ALCOHOL PROHIBITION

Sen. Jacobs: "These laws no longer serve the people."

LANSING - Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) today introduced legislation that would lift the statewide ban on Sunday morning alcohol sales. Currently, alcohol cannot be sold from 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning until noon. The existing restriction on 2:00 a.m. until 7:00 a.m. sales would remain, making the law consistent throughout the week. The proposed legislation would also remove the ban on Christmas Day alcohol sales.

"The Sunday/Christmas ban is a remnant of Prohibition in the 1920's," Jacobs said. "These archaic laws were established 75 years ago when society was much different. We are now an economically, culturally and religiously diverse society, and these laws no longer represent the majority of citizens. In addition to being somewhat discriminatory, these laws make it more difficult for restaurants and retailers to do business in the state."

Blue laws are bothersome to business owners and consumers alike. "My customers express frustration every Sunday morning when they realize that they have to make a second trip to the store at noon to purchase alcohol," said Craig Mangold, director of Royal Oak's Holiday Market. "It's nothing but a waste of time and gas for the customer."

The unpopular blue laws also put a strain on Mangold's store operations, which experience disproportionate business during Sunday afternoons. "When a customer selects a bottle of wine or liquor on Sunday morning and I tell them they cannot purchase it until noon, I have never had a customer say, 'Oh, that makes sense—this is a good law.' They just get frustrated."

Jacobs' proposed legislation allows any county, city village or township to enact local prohibitions as approved by a majority of voters. It also contains language to protect existing local prohibitions.

Currently, some 28 states have banned restrictions on Sunday sales, and another six states have similar legislation pending.

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